JUSTICE WE BEG



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Cuttack, Orissa

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1. Present dismemberment of Oriya tracts

Owing to administrative exigencies and historical accidents the ancient land of Orissa was divided into bits and tacked on to different state areas as expediency necessitated from time to time. But the ancient history and culture of the people survive to this day and has withstood the on-slaughts of conflicting and crossing language from the north and the south. It is our painful duty to bring to the notice of India and of the Union government that our language, script and culture owing to their contact with Telgu in Andhra, Hindi in C. P. and Bihar have been maimed and mutilated while in South Manbhum, south Bankura and South-west Midnapur owing to their contact with Bengalee have been altered beyond recognition. Permit us, to point out that the

process of disintegration of an ancient language and culture is a tragedy unique in the annals of India. Despite the safeguards embodied in Arts. 29, 30 and other provisions of the Constitution, Oriya language, literature and script are daily crushed and all the constitutional safeguards have proved useless owing to the aggressive linguism prevailing in the different States of India and we have come to the conclusion that the contiguous and compact areas having preponderance of population speaking Oriya or Oriya assimilating Adivasis should forthwith be integrated with the State of Orissa. Having faith in the impartial justice of the people of India, we areapproaching the people and the Union govt. to give justice, so that the Oriya culture and Oriya literature may be protected from the on-slaughts of Bengalee, Telgu and Hindi.

2. Sympathy of the Government and the S. R. C. Commission:—

The peculiar position of Orissa's case was recognised by the Govt. of India as early as 1903 by Lord Curzon, who tried to bring the dismembered Oriya tracts under one administration. But his efforts were partially successful. The people of Orissa, however realising the serious risks of denationalization to which their country and culture were exposed, kept up undaunted their agitation and it was in 1936 that a small truncated province of Orissa was carved out from the neighbouring provinces at

a time, when there was no people's Govt in Orissa and in 1948 the Orissa States were merged within the boundary of the State of Orissa. Our gratitude goes to the revered memory of Sardar Ballabhai Patel, the then Deputy Prime Minister of India, by whose endevour and farsighted statesmanship Orissa gained solidarity.

3, Communique of the Union Government of India

The Union Government of India recognising the principle of formation of States on linguistic and cultural basis and holding, "The States as they exist to-day in India are largely a result of historical processes and spread and consolidation of British Power in India", thought of reorganising the states on a principle that "language and culture of an area have an undoubted importance as they represent a pattern of living which is common in that area" and also it is quite natural, financial, economic and administrative considerations are almost equally important not only from the point of view of each state but of the whole Union."

4. S. R. C. Report

The State's Re-organisation Commission examining the claims of Orissa has completely deviated from the principle, laid down by the communique dated the 29th December 1953 of

6. From a glance at the map, it will be evident that the whole district of Singhbhum should be included within the boundary of Orissa and that is also supported by the latest linguistic figures obtained in the last Census of 1951. The report of the S. R. C. also admits the claim of Orissa over Singhbhum while discussing the transfer of Saraikella and Kharswan. "This can be avoided only if the whole of Singhbhum is transferred to Orissa" but comes to a wrong conclusion holding that "on administrative and other grounds" such a transfer is not advisable which we strongly protest and urge on the Union Government of India that the omission to include the district of Singhbhum or any portion there of in the boundary of Orissa is another instance of the glaring failure of the S. R. Commission to come to a right conclusion. Next to the Hos, the Oriyas in the district are in majority as against the Hindi or Bengali speaking people.

7. * Hos

The Hos have expressed their willingness to come over to Orissa as their kith and kin are all in the neighbouring districts of Orissa and the merger of Singhbhum district in Orissa will bring the Ho, tribe under one Unit of State administration.

8. Administration & Singhbhum

From the administrative point of view Bhubaneswar is nearer than Patna and there

are good road connections from Champua in Keonjhar (Orissa) to Chaibasa, the head quarters of Singhbhum and from Seraikella town to Rairangapur in Mayurbhanj district of Orissa and there are many road links connecting different towns of Dhalbhum with Mayurbhanj District of Orissa.

9. Economic point of view

From the economic point of view the district of Singhbhum should be intergrated with the State of Orissa.

The Tata Works get almost all its minerals from the district of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh. Unless these minerals from the district of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundargarh of Orissa reach the town of Jmashedpur the T. I S. Co. will not function. Therefore, the foctory town of Jamshedpur should be included in the boundary of Orissa as the sources of the mineral deposits are in Orissa.

All the local trade and commerce dealing with paddy, Tassar and other materials are carried between the district of Singhbhum and the adjoining districts of Mayurbhanj, Keonjhar and Sundergarh. Therefore, the inclusion of Singhbhum district in Orissa will be convenient to the people.

10. Defenc of India & Singhbhum

From the defence point of view the district of Singhbhum should be amalgamated with the State of Orissa so that the production

of steel in the Tata Works may not be hampered. The Tabo, Dalma, Satgurham and Dampara range of hills separate the district of Singhbhum from the rest of Chhotnagpur and Bihar and from the defence point of view it would be unwise to keep the district of Singhbhum including Jamshedpur outside the State of Orissa. Once there is stoppage of minerals from the different mineral centres in Orissa, the Tata Factory becomes useless. Therefore, parochial outlook should be completely eschewed in deciding the issue. which not only affect the destiny of Bihar and, wrissa but of the whole Union of India, as Iron and steel are the most vital products which affect the life of the millions in India. So we urge that the whole district of Singhbhum should be merged within the boundary of Orissa.

11. Dhalbhum.

Even a short glance at the table showing the population of Dhalbhum subdivision will clearly show that Orissa has the largest claim over this Subdivision, itself.

Table showing linguistic figures of Dhalbhum Subdivision—

1.	Oriya	1,08,000	(minus Jamshedpur)
2.	Bengalee	1,04,000	(Do)
3.	Hindi	46,000	(Do)
4.	Santalee	97,000	(Do)

Jamshedpur is excluded as it contains mainly floating population.

12. Industrial Consideration.

1. Where ever it is possible, the administration which controls the raw materials

should also control the manufacturing industries based on those raw materials.

2. T. I. S. Co. gets almost all the raw materials from Orissa.

3. If by any chance the party which is in power in Orissa happens to be different from the party in power in Bihar, Orissa can if its ruling party so desires bring about a stoppage of raw materials to T. I. S. Co. which will be a national calamity to India and the country should avoid this at all costs.

4. That the conclusion therefore is that Jamshedpur should go to Orissa.

The raw materials come from the different districts of orissa, as follows—

(1) Iron Ore—Mayurbhanj (Orissa)
(2) Manganese—Keonjhar (Do)
(3) Dolomites—Sundargarh (Do)
(4) Limestone—Sudargarh (Do)

5. Chromite-Keonjhar and Cuttack.

The only raw material which T. I. S. Co. gets from Bihar is coal but they also have alternative access to coal in Surguja in the Madhyapradesh or Asansole in Bengal.

6. The question for the country is to decide whether in the ultimate interest of key industries of T. I. S. Co. Jamshedpur should be with Orissa or Bihar. The facts stated above point clearly to the national interest be served putting Jamshedpur in Orissa.

13. Other Considerations.

The constitution of the villages in the rural areas of the Singhbhum district will clearly reveal that in every village Oriyas are present with the aborginals—Ho in Sadar Subdivision and Santals in Dhalbhum Subdivision. There is no trace of Hindi or Bengalee speaking people in the villages throughout the length and the breadth of the district of Singhbhum.

14. Here we quote another relevant opinion from an impartial and learned man of U. P. to show what should be the linguistic criterion in deciding the disputes in such areas. We shall do best to quote here the most important passage from page 145 of the monumental work—The cultural Heritage of India-Vol. III of Pandit Jaychandra Vidyalankar, Lecturer, Kashi Vidyapitha, Benares U. P., which runs as follows—

"The boundaries of Orissa have of late been the subject of much discussion. An important error of these discussions and has so far gone without a protest. Most of the disputed borders of Orissa are peopled by aboriginal communities, Dravidian or Munda. None of these however can from a large continuous independent nation-land. Their territories are being absorbed in the civilised Aryan or Dravidian languages near about them. While computing the percentage of Oriya speaking population in any disputed area the claims of the Oriyas are to be measured only aginst the neighbouring civilised language i. e. beside Bengalee, Bihari, Koshali, Marthi and Telgu."

15. Saraikela Subdivision.

Now we come to the Subdivision of Sareikela which was ex-states of Sareikella and Kharsuan in the Eastern State Agency and were merged with Orissa by Sardar Ballavai Patel, the then Dy. Prime Minister of India in January, 1948, but was temporarily transferred to Singhbhum on merely administrative grounds as Mayurbhanj was not then merged with Orissa. The following linguistic figures of different census will reveal the position and it should be integrated with with the state of Orissa.

Table

	Population	Oriya	Hindi	Ho
1911	1,48,646	43,058	9444	37,155
1921	1,52,497	40,074	5378	31,252
1931	1,86,622	51,206	10,725	34,407
1951	1,99,922	49,309	23,633	43,691
		(25.7%)	(12.3%)	(22.8%)

The wishes of the people of the Saraikella Subdivision to merge in the State of Orissa was evident when in the last general election the local M. L. A. Sri Mihir Kabi won the election on this particular issue of merger and his opponent lost the election.

South Manbhum

South Manbhum consisting of Revenue thnaas of chandil, Barhabhum and Manbazar conprising area of 1150 sq. miles, which was the demanded area of Orissa has now been transfered to. Bengal by S. R.

commission. Odonell Committee did not consider the case of South Manbhum as the inclusion of Singhbhum was not freasible the owing to the intervining exestate areas.

16. Orissa's claims in Madhya Pradesh.

We demand that the zamindary of Phuljhar, Bindhra—Nuagarh, Keora and Deobhog, Cunstituting the Tahasil of Mohasamad should be integrated with Orissa. This Mahasamad Tahsil should be integrated with Orissa. The Mahasamad Tahsil is divided into (a) and (b). In the Mahasamad Tahsil (a) the population is as follows—

Oriya—146,081
Hindi—36,117
Chhatisgarhi—89,528

The poulation table of Mahasamad Tahsil (a) and (b) is as follows—

1. Oriya—1,97006
2. Chatisgarhi—1,47,920
3. Hindi—1,90,608

These areas are lying near the western boundary of Orissa and far away from the Capital of Madhya Pradesh. The Phuljhar is very near to the Bargarh Subdivision of the district of Sambalpur in Orissa and Bindra Nuagarha and Deobhog is a triangular tract between the districts of Sambalpur and Kalahandi of Orissa. Both from administrative and commercial point of view should be integrated with Orissa. But the S. R.

Commission has completely overlooked this claim.

17. Orissa's claim over Eastern Baster of Madhya Pradesh—

The eastern portion of Baster including (i) Kandgaon Tahsil (ii) Jagdalpur Tahsil (iii) Dantawerda subsidision (iv) Sukuma zemindary should be integrated with Orissa. The Eastern portion of Baster is mainly inhabited by the Oriya speaking people. This area is adjacent to the district of Koraput of Orissa. The dialects of Bhatri and Parji are only seen in Koraput and Bastar. Parji is regarded as a dialect of Oriya assimilating character by the District Gazeteer of Vizagapatam.

18 Administrative Ground

Jadgalpur, the capital of Bastar is only 13 miles away fromRaipur and 500 miles away from Nagpur. These small areas being amalgamated with Orissa will cause in no way any inconvenience to the state of Madhyapradesh.

19. Orissa's claim in Andhra

The Odonell Committee fixing the boundaries in the south were mainly, if not solely influenced by the census figures and overlooked consideration arising out of the ties of history race and culture. To take an example even the Census figures of 1931 will clearly show that the Odonell Committee had split up Somapenth taluk into (a) and (b) for thepurpose of transferring predominent Oriyaspeaking area of Somepenth (a) showing the Oriyas percentage

as 73.33% against only 15% Telgu. Even that was kept out of Orissa for the reasons, best known to them. A look at the map will clearly show that the southern boundary of Orissa should be pushed upto Pundi Rly Station where the Grand Trunk Road has joined with the rail line. If we draw a boundary line from the village Tikkalipatna to the town of Parlakhemedi much of the Oriya areas will be included in the boundary of Orissa, (i) This will facilitate the trade of the area in question which has its connection with hinterlands of the district of Ganjam. (ii) The sea coast corridor creates troubles in administration such as prohibition and control measures are easily violated.

The boundary of the south is so much zigzag that from the administrative point of view this has to be avoided very soon. The measures we propose, will remedy the evil.

According to 1931 Census the whole district of Ganjam minus Chikacol Taluk is purely an Oriya district. But the Odonell committee arbitrarily broke this district and taluks and transferred a portion to Orissa leaving genuinely Oriya areas outside the boundary of Orissa. The trouble with the committee was that they did not fix a linguistic unit which would have facilitated the division. In 1924 the Philif Duff Enquiry Committeee appointed by the Govt. Of India made extensive tours in the district and definitely recommended the inclusion of areas which the Odonell Committee did not include. The S.R.C. also has brushed aside the issue altogether.

Orissa's Case in Bengal.

The Census figures in the south west of Midnapur given below will clearly reveal the position of Oriyas' in Bengal.

1. 1891............5,7,2798
2. 1901............2,70495
3. 1911............1,51,801
4. 1921............1,42,107
5. 1931............45,101
6. 1951............28,197.

The above figures will clearly establish that there is systematic and ruthless process to denationalise the Oriya speaking people and to diminish their number and in South Bankura this process has completely killed the Oriya Script and languag. We are drawing your kind attention to these figures to establish that unless Orissa's claim is recognised by the Union Government of India and remedy in shape of adjusting the boundary be done quickly, the same historic process will be repeated every where and in this connection we may draw the attention of the Government of India to the Census Report of Andhra, 1951 which also reveals the same process. In 1903 Grierson described the extent of Oriya country as follows.

"On the East Oriya is bounded by the Bay of Bengal. On the north its boundary to the east coincided with the river Haldi, which here

forms at the same time the northern boundary of the Contai Sub-division of Midnapur. It then turns north west along the river Kalighai, as far as the district of Bankura so as to include in the Oriya speaking area, the four Midnapur Police Circles of Danton, Gopiballabhpur, Jhargham and Binapur". Attle Sub-Committee of Simmon Commision also recommended the inclusion of Mohanpur and Gopiballabhpur of Midnapur District in Orissa. In the time of the Odonell Committee some leaders of Midnapur district were definitely opposed to transfer of any small areas such as, thanas adjoining Orissa. Therefore,no area from Midnapur or South Bankura was included in Orissa. But the S. R. C. though assured us to come to Midnapur for local inspection did not at all visit the area. Now the stiuation has completely changed. Even if small portions of Midnapur area adjoining the the Orissa State be transferred to Orissa, there will be no objection from the local people and it will rather facilitate administration.

CONCLUSSION

We appeal to all lovers of Justice and culture to view this grave problem of Orissa impartially and help us to save our Script-language and culture and for which, Orissa is agitating for the last fifty-year's. After Independance of India, We hope the people of India sould realise the gravity of the situation and solve the problem once for all.

Jai Hind

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